The implementation of Technology Mission on Cotton would not only improve the productivity and quality of cotton but also reduce the cost of cultivation making Indian Cotton competitive.

(b) No ceiling has been prescribed for providing funds for modernization of the industry under the Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme.

(c) to (e) Cotton Textile Exports have been showing an increasing trend; the details for the last three years are as follows:

(in million US Dollar)

Item	1998-99	199SMX)	200001
Cotton yarn, Fabrics and Made-ups	2771.76	3019.95	3499.60
Read made Garments of Cotton including Accessories	314729	3247.41	3926.63
TOTAL:	5919.05	626736	742623

Enhancing employment opportunities of SCs/STs in textiles sector

3176. VEN'BLE DHAMMAVIRIYO: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Article 46 of the Constitution directs the State to promote with special care economic and other interests of the weaker sections of the people, and in particular of the SCs and STs so as to protect them from social injustice and exploitation and to overcome the prevailing deep rooted social prejudices and historical economic handicaps suffered by them; and

(b) if so, the steps taken for enhancing employment opportunities and economic empowerment of SCs/STs in textile sector so as to being them on the main stream of our national life by this Ministry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRIV. DHANANJAY KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In terms of the directions/instructions issued from time to time by Government for the welfare and upliftment of weaker sections of the people and, in particular of SCs/STs, various identified central sector schemes have been earmarked/undertaken in the various sectors of Textile Industry for creating employment opportunities and economic growth of weaker sections including

SCs/STs. through various training programmes, financial assistance, design and technical development, infrastructure facilities, marketing facilities etc. Since the Handicrafts and Handlooms sectors of the Textile Industry provide employment to vast number of people belonging to weaker sections particularly SCs/STs, Government have recently launched new comprehensive schemes named "Baba Saheb Ambedkar Hastshilp Vikas Yojana" and "Deen Dayal Hatkaragha Protsahan Yojana" in the Handicrafts and Handlooms sectors respectively to take care of the employment opportunities and economic growth of craftsmen and weavers in these two sectors respectively.

Depletion in export of textiles to the US

3177. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA:
SHRIJANESHWAR MISHRA:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the textile exports from India to the US have been adversely affected by the recent developments as a result of terrorists attacks in that country during this year;

(b) if so, the quantum of textiles exported to the US during the last two years;

(c) whether Government have explored new markets for export of textiles; and

(d) if so, how far the new markets have helped the exporters to make up the depletion in the export of textiles to America?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAY KUMAR): (a) A declining trend is noticed in the textile exports to US since the beginning of year 2001, mainly due to general slowdown in the US economy which got accentuated due to September 11,2001 attacks.

(b) The value of textiles exports to US and other countries in the last two years are given below:—

(US $ Million)

	1999-00	2000-01
Textiles exports to all countries	10508.5	12097.4
Of which:		
Share of US	27373	3218.7

Source: DGCI & S, Calcutta.